

Message Text

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60

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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SUBJECT: WAR IN ASIA

FOR IOP/M

IWE

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IBS

STATE FOR EUR/CAN; INR/RES

REF: WIS 239

1. TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL JANUARY 23 EDITORIAL ON CAMBODIA
CRITICAL CONTINUING U.S. SUPPORT LON NOL GOVERNMENT.
"FUELLED BY ALMOST \$2 MILLION A DAY IN DIRECT AMERICAN AID,
ALL BUT A FRACTION OF IT MILITARY, THE OTHER WAR IN INDO-
CHINA GOES ON, KILLING AND WOUNDING CAMBODIANS AT A RATE OF
300 CASUALTIES A DAY, FLATTENING VILLAGES, TOWNS, OSQUES,
PAGODAS AND SCHOOLS AND DEVASTATING THE LAND ALMOST BEYOND
HOPE OF RECOVERY.

2. "IT HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR CLOSE TO FIVE YEARS, PARTIALLY
OBSCURED FROM WORLD ATTENTION BY THE LARGER CONFRONTATION
IN VIETNAM, BUT RELENTLESSLY ROLLING UP ITS OWN STATISTICS OF
HORROR....

3. "IT HAS GONE ON IN SPITE OF UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF
STATE HENRY KISSINGER'S CONFIDENCE IN MID-1973 THAT IT WOULD
BE OVER IN 90 DAYS; IN SPITE, FOR THAT MATTER, OF HIS BELIEF
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IN 1969 THAT IT WOULD BE OVER IN MONTHS; IN SPITE OF THE

BOMBING ORDERED BY RICHARD NIXON.

4. "AND WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BY ALL THIS SLAUGHTER AND DEVASTATION, BY ALL THIS ARMING OF INSECURE PHNOM PENH RGIME TO KILL ITS OWN COUNTRYMEN FOR WHAT IS SAID TO BE THEIR OWN GOOD? ONLY THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF MARSHAL LON NOL IS NOW SO LACKING IN SUPPORT THAT EVEN THE AMERICANS ARE CONVINCED IT WOULD INSTANTLY COLLAPSE IF UNITED STATES SUPPORT WERE SIGNIFICANTLY CUT BACK."

5. SPECULATING WHAT THIS WAR MIGHT ACHIEVE THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES "NO PROLONGATION OF THE FIGHTING CAN CHANGE THE ESSENTIAL FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS ON THE LOSING SIDE IN A CIVIL WAR AND THAT ONLY AMERICAN SUPPORT, IN MASSIVE DOSES, IS KEEPING THE WAR GOING. HOW MAY THOUSAND MORE CAMBODIANS MUST DIE BEFORE WASHINGTON IS WILLING TO FACE THE TRUTH.
FORDNEY

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NNN

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